BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2024

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

BOOKLIST FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN

BPL.ORG

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On the Cover: Maia and Alex Shibutani, authors of *Amazing: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Who Inspire Us All*

Photographed by Joyce B. Chen
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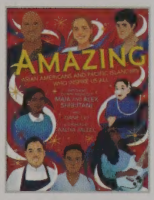
CHILDREN



Amazing: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Who Inspire Us All

Maia and Alex Shibutani & Dane Liu (illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel)

These short bios, grouped by theme, showcase a variety of people and professions from across the Pan-Asian diaspora including chefs, activists, famous actors, politicians, and athletes. Recommended for ages 4-9.

J BIOG E184.A75 S55 2023

Chinese Menu: The History, Myths, and Legends Behind Your Favorite Foods

Grace Lin

A brightly illustrated overview of the mythology and history of various Chinese dishes and how they've been Americanized. Recommended for ages 8-12.

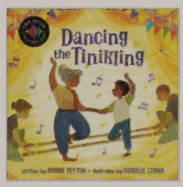
J TX360.C6 L56 2023

Cindy and Panda

Benson Shum

Cindy and her new panda friend set out to bake a pie, but a missing key ingredient in the recipe may sour their sweet adventure! Recommended for ages 4-7.

J PICTURE SHUM B



Dancing the Tinikling

Bobbie Peyton (illustrated by Diobelle Cerna)

Jojo and his Lola (grandmother) embrace both their Filipino and American cultures when she invites him to join her in the traditional Filipino Tinikling dance. Recommended for ages 5-7.

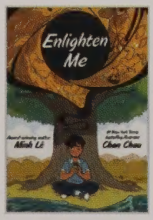
J PICTURE PEYTON B

Dim Sum Palace

X. Fang

A tribute to the tastes of Dim Sum with an imaginative twist reminiscent of Maurice Sendak's *In the Night Kitchen*. Recommended for ages 3-7.

J PICTURE FANG X



Enlighten Me

Minh Lê (illustrated by Chan Chau)

A Vietnamese American boy fights back against a bully and gets sent to a weekend-long silent meditation retreat, where he starts imagining himself in the stories of the Buddha. Recommended for ages 9-12.

J GRAPHIC ENLIGHTE ME

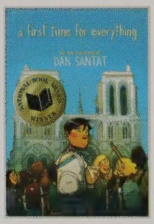
available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

Everyone Loves Lunchtime but Zia

Jenny Liao (illustrated by Dream Chen)

Zia feels embarrassed by her Cantonese lunch, until her parents show her the special meanings behind each dish. Recommended for ages 4 to 8.

J PICTURE LIAO J



A First Time for Everything

Dan Santat

Many "firsts" are recalled in this graphic novelization of a trip that bestselling author Dan Santat took to Europe when he was in middle school. Recommended for ages 10-12.

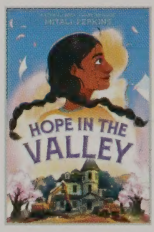
J GRAPHIC NC1429.S27 A2 2023x

Grace's Chinese New Year

Jackie Huang

In this book for children just beginning to read independently, a young girl named Grace helps her family prepare for Lunar New Year. Recommended for ages 5-7.

J HOLIDAY HUANG J

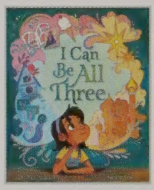


Hope in the Valley

Mitali Perkins

In 1980s California, Pandita prepares to start middle school while dealing with grief, friendship challenges, and community activism. Recommended for ages 9-12.

J FICTION PERKINS M



I Can Be All Three

Salima Alikhan (illustrated by Noor Sofi)

An Indian-German-American girl finds the perfect way to celebrate all of her identities for her school's multicultural day. Recommended for ages 4-8.

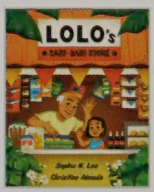
J PICTURE ALIKHAN S

It's Boba Time for Pearl Li!

Nicole Chen

Pearl, a Taiwanese American middle schooler, starts a crocheting business to try and save her favorite boba tea shop. Recommended for ages 9-12.

J FICTION CHEN N



Lolo's Sari-Sari Store

Sophia N Lee (illustrated by Christine Almeda)

After moving to the United States, a young girl remembers the lessons she learned helping her Lolo (grandfather) in his sari-sari store in the Philippines. Recommended for ages 4-8.

J PICTURE LEE S

Make a Move, Sunny Park!

Jessica Kim

Shy K-pop fan Sunny auditions for the school dance team with her best friend, but only Sunny makes the squad! Can she handle performance anxiety along with the impact on her friendship? Recommended for ages 9-12.

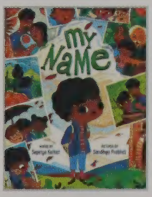
J FICTION KIM J

The Many Masks of Andy Zhou

Jack Cheng

Andy is already busy with his grandparents moving in, and the dance class he secretly joined with his best friend. But while she fits in, Andy doesn't... until he forms a surprising friendship with his bully. Recommended for ages 10-12.

J FICTION CHENG J



My Name

Supriya Kelkar (illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat)

A young boy worries that his name is too unusual, until his family helps him see the value in his unique identity. Recommended for ages 4-8.

J PICTURE KELKAR S

Parachute Kids

Betty C. Tang

In this graphic novel inspired by the author's childhood, Feng-Li and her older siblings learn that they will stay in California after a family vacation to Los Angeles, while their parents return to Taiwan. Recommended for ages 9-12.

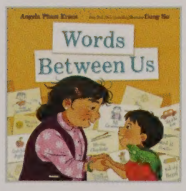
J GRAPHIC PARACHUT KIDS

Sora's Seashells

Helena Ku Rhee (illustrated by Stella Lim with Ji-Hyuk Kim)

Sora, whose name means "seashell" in Korean, finds comfort in her connection to her recently passed grandmother, who loved the beach, in this gentle story about grief and the power of generosity. Recommended for ages 4-6.

J PICTURE RHEE H



Words Between Us

Angela Pham Krans (illustrated by Dung Ho)

When Felix's grandmother comes from Vietnam to stay with his family in the United States, Felix realizes that he can help Grandma by teaching her English. Recommended for ages 4-8.

J PICTURE KRANS A

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

You Are Here: Connecting Flights

Ellen Oh (editor)

This collection of interconnected short stories by Asian American authors follows a group of twelve young people who are forced together in a crowded airport after a TSA mishap. Recommended for ages 8-12.

J FICTION YOU ARE HERE

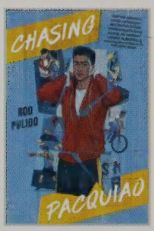
TEEN

All the Yellow Suns

Malavika Kannan

As a queer teenager in Florida, Maya Krishnan knows the potential consequences of rocking the boat. When outspoken and alluring Juneau invites her to join a secret society of guerilla activists, she soon finds herself in over her head.

TEEN FICTION KANNAN M

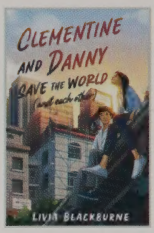


Chasing Pacquiao

Rod Pulido

After being outed as gay, Manny turns to boxing for self-defense. But when his idol, a fellow Filipino American boxer, makes homophobic comments, Manny decides it's time to become his own hero.

TEEN FICTION PULIDO R

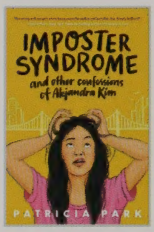


Clementine and Danny Save the World (and Each Other)

Livia Blackburne

When gentrification threatens to shut down Danny's parents' teashop, he joins an activist group and starts falling for a member named Clementine, while both are unaware that they've been anonymous online rivals for years.

TEEN FICTION BLACKBUR



Imposter Syndrome and Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim

Patricia Park

Alejandra doesn't feel like she fits in anywhere: while she's a lifelong New Yorker, her Korean parents come from Argentina. As she grieves her dad's death, she also deals with the aftermath of a viral encounter with a racist teacher.

TEEN FICTION PARK P

Kween

Vichet Chum

A queer Cambodian American teen goes viral for her slam poetry about her dad's deportation, but she doesn't know if she's brave enough to enter her school's spoken word contest.

TEEN FICTION CHUM V

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

Love & Resistance

Kara H. L. Chen

Chronic new kid Olivia stands up to a racist bully and joins a secret society of nerds who want to take down the mean girl.

TEEN FICTION CHEN K

The Love Match

Priyanka Taslim

Zahra and Harun fake-date to get their parents off their backs while Zahra pursues a coworker instead. But the longer she spends with both boys, the less she knows what she truly wants.

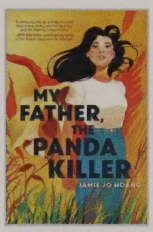
TEEN FICTION TASLIM P

Monstrous: A Transracial Adoption Story

Sarah Myer

Sarah, a quiet Korean American adopted by a white couple, channels her anger about the racism she faces into her art and cosplay. But the bullies get louder as she enters high school, and she's not sure she'll be able to continue to contain her rage.

TEEN GRAPHIC HV875.64 .M94 2023

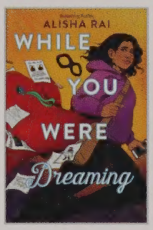


My Father, the Panda Killer

Jamie Jo Hoang

Told in alternating points of view, half of this book follows recent high school graduate Jane as she tries to make sense of her father's anger, while the other half chronicles his dangerous journey to the U.S. from Vietnam 24 years earlier.

TEEN FICTION HOANG J



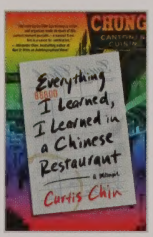
While You Were Dreaming

Alisha Rai

In superhero cosplay, Sonia saves her crush's life and the footage goes viral. To keep her undocumented sister from being deported like their mom, she'll have to thwart TikTok detectives while sorting out her feelings for two different boys.

TEEN FICTION RAI A

MEMOIR



Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant

Curtis Chin

The co-founder of the Asian American Writers' Workshop recounts growing up as a gay Chinese kid in 1980s Detroit and the welcoming Chinese restaurant where he found a home.

BIOG PN1998.3.C6456 A3 2023

Hijab Butch Blues

Lamya H

A queer Muslim immigrant from an unnamed South Asian country, Lamya H recalls her coming of age in the Middle East and the United States, drawing inspiration and parallels from the Quran in her search for safety and belonging.

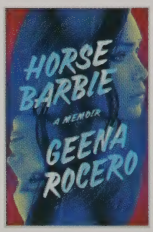
BIOG HQ75.4.H15 A3 2023

Limp Forward

Libo Cao Meyers

In her enormous efforts to overcome both physical and external adversities, Meyers — who contracted polio as a child and is now a Silicon Valley executive — demonstrates that it is possible for everyone to realize their potential.

BIOG HV1553 .M49 2023



Horse Barbie

Geena Rocero

The model, director, and trans rights activist shares her inspiring life story from winning trans pageants in the Philippines to becoming a modeling star in the U.S., where she uses her platform to fight for trans rights all over the world.

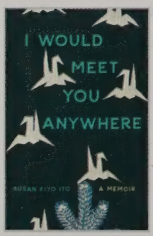
BIOG HQ77.8.R65 A3 2023

A Man of Two Faces

Viet Thanh Nguyen

In sharing his family's journey as refugees from Vietnam and their struggle to succeed in America, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Nguyen reveals larger truths about refugeehood, colonialism, and what it means to be a father and a son.

BIOG F869.S394 N58 2023



I Would Meet You Anywhere

Susan Kiyo Ito

As a biracial child, Ito was always visibly different. In her memoir, she chronicles an adopted child's journey and exploration of identity complicated by unspoken secrets, her birth mother's ambivalence, and the legacy of internment.

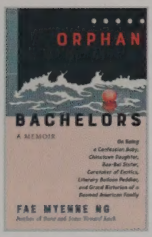
BIOG HV874.82.I86 A3 2023

Oh My Mother!

Connie Wang

In these hilarious and heartwarming essays, Wang chronicles an around the world adventure with her charismatic and stubborn mother as they embark on a journey of self-discovery and find freedom in not belonging.

BIOG HQ755.85 .W36 2023



Orphan Bachelors

Fae Myenne Ng

Noted novelist Ng shares her family's struggle to survive and thrive during her childhood in San Francisco's Chinatown, where she was raised under the shadows of the Asian Exclusion Laws.

BIOG PS3564.G25 Z46 2023

Secret Harvests

David Mas Masumoto

Matsumoto, a third generation Japanese American, reflects on the lingering impacts of internment through the lens of his aunt Sugi, who was separated from her family in 1942 and incorrectly presumed dead.

BIOG F869.F8 M37 2023

NONFICTION

Asian Americans in an Anti-Black World

Claire Jean Kim

Kim, a professor of Asian American studies, explores the racial construction of Asian Americans over the past two centuries: as not-white, but above all not-Black.

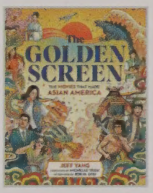
E184.A75 K528 2023

Daughter of the Dragon: Anna May Wong's Rendezvous with American History

Yunte Huang

This sympathetic close-up of Chinese American Hollywood trailblazer Anna May Wong details her life and career in the context of her times.

BIOG PN2287.W56 H83 2023



The Golden Screen: The Movies That Made Asian America

Jeff Yang

Through profiles, artwork, photographs, and interviews, Yang celebrates over a century of Asian American filmmaking, ranging from 1915's silent classic *The Cheat* to the 2022 breakout *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

PN1995.9.A77 Y36 2023

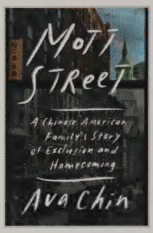
Koreatown Dreaming: Stories & Portraits of Korean Immigrant Life

Emanuel Hahn

Photographer Hahn pairs snapshots with brief essays to profile small businesses in Koreatowns across the United States.

F870.K6 H34 2023

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

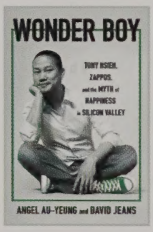


Mott Street: A Chinese American Family's Story of Exclusion and Homecoming

Ava Chin

On a quest to learn about her family history and estranged father, Chin discovers the truth about her ancestors' long journey to America amidst the Chinese Exclusion Act — and the building in NYC's Chinatown that was a refuge for them all.

BIOG F128.68.C47 C45 2023



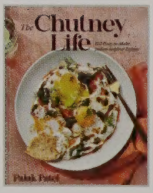
Wonder Boy: Tony Hsieh, Zappos, and the Myth of Happiness in Silicon Valley

Angel Au-Yeung & David Jeans

Journalists Au-Yeung and Jeans chronicle the turbulent life of former Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh, from his early entrepreneurial experiments and success to his spiral into addiction and tragic death.

BIOG HC102.5.H75 A92 2023

FOOD WRITING



The Chutney Life: 100 Easy-to-Make Indian-Inspired Recipes

Palak Patel

Patel makes Indian-inspired cooking accessible with these 100 easy-to-make recipes that celebrate not only the food but also the loving hands that make it.

TX724.5.I4 P38 2023

Egg Rolls & Sweet Tea: Asian Inspired, Southern Style

Natalie Keng

Keng's playful recipes fuse the ingredients and techniques of the American South and Taiwan to create a wholly original take on both cultures in a mashup that reflects her unique life experiences.

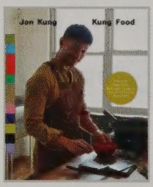
TX715.2.S68 K44 2023

Ever-Green Vietnamese: Super-Fresh Recipes, Starring Plants from Land and Sea

Andrea Ngyuen

Ngyuen presents over 125 plant-forward Vietnamese recipes that are full of the authentic flavors of the original dishes with helpful recommendations for vegan or vegetarian ingredient substitutions.

TX724.5.V5 N4695 2023



Kung Food: Chinese American Recipes from a Third-Culture Kitchen

Jon Kung

From TikTok star Jon Kung comes an exciting collection of 100 recipes with striking photos that redefine what Chinese American food can be.

TX724.5.C5 K775 2023

Love Japan: Recipes from our Japanese American Kitchen

Sawako Okuchi and Aaron Israel with Gabriella Gershenson

A collection of homestyle Japanese recipes rooted in traditional techniques and flavors with modern twists and trends.

TX715 .O4213 2023

Mayumu: Filipino American Desserts Remixed

Abi Balingit

75 remixed Filipinx American dessert recipes developed from the author's experiences in the Philippines, California, and New York.

TX773 .B2685 2023

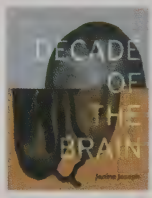
A Very Chinese Cookbook: 100 Recipes from China and Not China (But Still Really Chinese)

Kevin and Jeffrey Pang

The *Hunger Pangs* father-son duo combine meticulous research with humorous anecdotes in this cookbook filled with time-honored family recipes and details about the ingredients, techniques and tools in a Chinese American kitchen.

TX724.5.C5 P36 2023

POETRY



Decade of the Brain

Janine Joseph

Using erasure, letter, found poetry, and other forms that speak to the fragmentation experienced after injury, Joseph writes of pain, recovery, body, and brain post-automobile accident.

PS3610.O6688 D43 2023

The Diaspora Sonnets

Oliver de la Paz

In formally inventive sonnets, often in couplets, de la Paz — a former Poet Laureate of Worcester — writes of displacement, seeking belonging, family, and a diaspora "that has left and is forever leaving

PS3554.E114 A6 2023

From From

Monica Youn

The title of Youn's collection of prose poems refers to the sequence of questions Asian Americans often receive: "Where are you from...? No, where are you from from?" Youn's poems explore authenticity and identity with humor and deft precision.

PS3625.O76 A6 2023

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

The Kingdom of Surfaces

Sally Wen Mao

Art and history, the actual and the imaginary, are all flawlessly woven together and presented to readers in these poems that reflect on Sinophobic violence and Western obsession with products of China such as silk and porcelain.

PS3613.A623 K56 2023

The Orange Tree

Dong Li

Transnational poet and translator Dong Li, born and raised in China, writes of historical violence, trauma, and grief. Lyrical and luminous, the book features untranslated brushstroke characters throughout.

PS3612.I134 O73 2023

Under a Future Sky

Brynn Saito

Saito writes of memory, longing, and the body in lyrical correspondence and epistolary poems that call readers to "rise to the occasion of your living."

PS3619.A3987 U64 2023

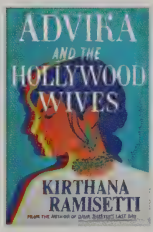
West: A Translation

Paisley Rekdal

In this hybrid collection of poems and essays, Rekdal commemorates the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad, and celebrates the workers who built it.

PS3568.E54 W47 2023

FICTION

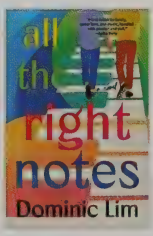


Advika and the Hollywood Wives

Ramisetti Kirthana

Advika, a struggling screenwriter, elopes with a legendary film producer and is soon faced with a million-dollar bequest from her new husband's ex-wife, which she will receive only if she divorces him.

FICTION RAMISETT K



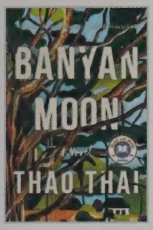
All the Right Notes

Dominic Lim

When a piano genius and a Hollywood heartthrob with a shared secret history are thrown together for a charity performance, a showstopping finale is in store.

ROMANCE LIM D

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel



Banyan Moon

Thao Thai

Spanning decades and continents, from 1960s Vietnam to present day Florida, this compelling multi-generational story is told in the voices of daughter, mother, and grandmother.

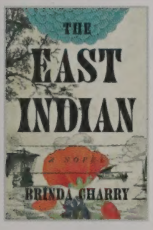
FICTION THAI T

Chlorine

Jade Song

Ren, a talented swimmer obsessed with mermaids, struggles to find herself amidst pressures from her parents, her coach, and her teammates. As she comes of age and her transformation progresses, Ren will do anything she can to be free.

FICTION SONG J



The East Indian

Brinda Charry

Orphaned and afraid, young Tony is kidnapped and transported to the New World. While working on the tobacco plantations of Jamestown, Virginia, he finds companionship with his peers and dreams of life after servitude.

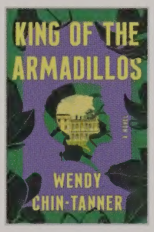
FICTION CHARRY B

The Girl in the Mist

Vinaya Bhagat

After losing her parents to a car accident in Boston, Diya is left alone in the world. Soon she receives a letter from unknown relatives in India and finds herself on a mission to uncover her newfound family's secrets.

FICTION BHAGAT V

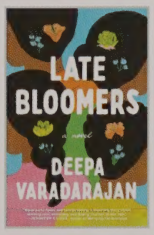


King of the Armadillos

Wendy Chin-Tanner

Inspired by the life of the author's father, this debut follows Victor, a teenage Chinese immigrant who is sent to Louisiana to quarantine for leprosy. There, he discovers the things — music, love, community — that make life worth living.

FICTION CHINTANN W



Late Bloomers

Deepa Varadarajan

After thirty-six years of arranged marriage, Suresh and Lata divorce, sending their Indian American family on a life-changing path of rediscovery.

FICTION VARADARA D

Let's Go Let's Go Let's Go

Cleo Qian

This powerful debut short story collection illuminates the lives of young Asian and Asian American women fighting against stereotypes in a globalized and technology-obsessed world.

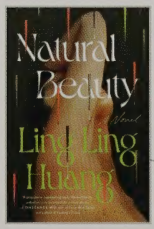
FICTION QIAN C

The Liberators

E. J. Koh

A saga following two Korean families from the height of military dictatorship in South Korea, all the way to present day California. The decisions that are made for love and during wartime will change the fate of the families forever.

FICTION KOH E



Natural Beauty

Ling Ling Huang

A young woman leaves her career as a virtuoso pianist to help care for her ailing parents and becomes involved at Holistik, a trendy wellness company. But soon the horrors underneath the glamorous surface are revealed.

FICTION HUANG L

A Quitter's Paradise

Elysha Chang

Eleanor is doing everything she can to ignore her mother's death, including quitting her PhD program and keeping secrets from her husband. As she tries to avoid her past, however, she is forced to confront her present.

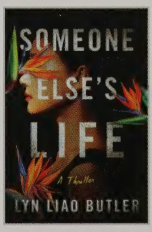
FICTION CHANG E

The Sense of Wonder

Matthew Salesses

Won Lee, the first Asian American in the NBA, shocks the world as he leads his team to a seven-game winning streak but struggles to be seen and heard by his peers, his hero and teammate Powerball, his coach, and the world.

FICTION SALESSES M



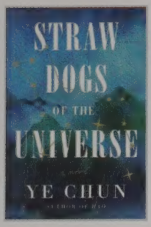
Someone Else's Life

Lyn Liao Butler

After a year of loss, Annie and her family move to Hawaii, where her past continues to haunt her. One stormy night, a stranded motorist asks for shelter, but as the night passes, it becomes clear that the woman is no stranger.

FICTION BUTLER L

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel



Straw Dogs of the Universe

Chun Ye

A fresh point of view on the American West, told through the perspectives of a Chinese railroad worker and the young daughter who must travel across an unfamiliar landscape in the hopes of finding him again.

FICTION YE C

When the Hibiscus Falls

M. Evelina Galang

Stories centered on Filipina women through generations and across continents, about the intricacies of community, family, and Filipino American identity.

FICTION GALANG M

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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